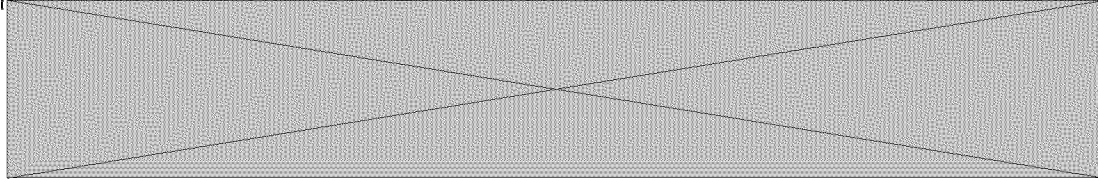


**To:** Ziegler, Sam[Ziegler.Sam@epa.gov]  
**From:** The Bay Foundation  
**Sent:** Tue 9/26/2017 12:51:46 AM  
**Subject:** Draft EIS/EIR for the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve Released

September 25, 2017



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## **Draft EIS/EIR for the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve Released!**

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), in partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers, has spent years working with the public and envisioning a plan for the revitalization of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (BWER). The Ballona Wetlands were once an over 2,000-acre expanse of marshes, mud flats, salt pans, and sand dunes that stretched from Playa del Rey to Venice and inland to the Baldwin Hills. Today, the BWER is less than 600 acres of open space now owned and managed by CDFW.

The remaining lands have been heavily impacted over many decades. A once-meandering Ballona Creek was cemented into a straight, concrete channel nearly 100 years ago. Most of the wetlands - once home to abundant fish and waterfowl - were dredged and filled in to build Marina del Rey in the 1960s. Invasive plants, or weeds, have also taken over much of the Reserve. See <http://ballonarestoration.org> for more information.

CDFW, as the state lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is coordinating the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project. CDFW is partnering with the Army Corps of Engineers, the federal lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Together they produced a joint Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) / Draft EIR.

CDFW is now soliciting comments on the Draft EIS/EIR. Click on CDFW's website for Draft EIS/EIR information: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/5/Ballona-EIR>. Also linked is the formal

**Notice of Availability from CDFW (PDF).**

To view the Draft EIS/EIR, [click here](#).

Send written comments via regular mail or e-mail to:

Copies of the Draft EIS/EIR with appendices, and including copies of the reference materials, will be available for public review during normal working hours at the following locations:

Richard Brody, CDFW

c/o Los Angeles Public Library, Playa Vista Branch, 6400 Playa Vista Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90045

San Francisco, California Public Library, Lloyd Taber-Marina del Rey, 4533 Admiralty Way Marina del Rey, CA 90292

- Los Angeles Public Library, Westchester-Loyola Village Branch, 7114 W Manchester Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90045
- California State Coastal Conservancy, 1330 Broadway, 13th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612-2530

CDFW requests that written comments be provided at the earliest possible date. The public comment period is expected to be 60 days and end at 5:00 p.m. on November 24, 2017. In addition, one public hearing, where verbal and written comments will be accepted, is scheduled as follows:

Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Place: Burton Chase Park - Community Center  
13650 Mindanao Way  
Marina del Rey, CA 90292

CDFW will review all substantive comments received during the review period and provide written responses in a Final EIS/EIR. The Final EIS/EIR will be made available to the public and will provide a basis for decision-making by permitting authorities.

*\*\* Please do not respond to this newsletter with comments on the Draft EIS/EIR. This newsletter is simply a notification of the release of the Draft EIS/EIR. In order for comments to be accepted and recognized, they need to be submitted to either the written or email comment address listed above. \*\**

### **Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project Website**

The Bay Foundation, P.O. Box 13336, Los Angeles, CA 90013

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